

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 19 and 21 are in the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the rejections stated in the Examiner's Answer mailed November 15, 2006, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **Patentability of the Claims**

#### **Claims 1, 2, 5, 19 and 21**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to (now canceled) claim 20 (as noted in page 5 of the Examiner's Answer. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are all believed to be in condition for allowance.

#### **Claims 6, 11 and 12**

Claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to (now canceled) claim 10. Accordingly, claim 6 and the claims depending therefrom are all believed to be in condition for allowance.

#### **Claims 8 and 9**

Previously objected to claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claim. Thus claim 8 and its dependent claim 9 are believed to be allowable.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

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